



State of Utah

Department of  
Natural Resources

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Division of  
Oil, Gas & Mining

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*Lieutenant Governor*

May 14, 2004

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist *PBB*

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Molycorp, Small Fry Mine, M/037/022, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 29, 2003  
Time of Inspection: 4:00-4:30 p.m.  
Conditions: Mostly cloudy, thunderstorms in the area, 84 degrees  
Participants: Paul Baker (DOGM)

**Purpose of Inspection:**

This site was seeded in late March. I was in the area and wanted to stop and see how the vegetation was progressing.

**Observations:**

There is a lot of grass growing in the reclaimed areas, but, unfortunately, I believe most of it is volunteer grain. I was able to find some plants of species that were seeded.

Other than this, the site looked basically as it did in March.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The Division and the operator need to monitor the site. The volunteer grain may serve as something of a nurse crop to improve soil structure and organic matter content and to provide shade for seedlings of the seeded species. Nurse crops may also decrease weed establishment, but they sometimes compete with desirable species.

PBB:jb

cc: Moab BLM

Ray Cherniske, Molycorp

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## **ATTACHMENT**

### **Photographs**

**M/037/022, Small Fry Mine, Molycorp**

**Inspection Date: May 29, 2003; Report Date: May 14, 2004**



**Photo 1. View of a portion of the pad.**